

IN THE MATTER of the assassination
of President John F Kennedy

- and -

IN THE MATTER of the rumor that Lee
Harvey Oswald was an FBI informer in
Dallas, Texas, with the assigned
number of S-172 or S-179 at the time
of the assassination.

I, Ian Colin Archibald MacFarlane, of 59 Talbot Crescent, Kooyong,
in the State of Victoria, Australia, make oath and say as follows:

- 1 I have spent several years researching the subject of the
assassination of President Kennedy. I am the author of a number
of newspaper articles, a booklet and a book, which examine the
matter.
- 2 In November, 1975, I made a tour of the United States, during
which I spent six days in Dallas, Texas.
- 3 In conversations with Mr Earl Golz, a reporter for the Dallas
Morning News, I discussed some of the instances of apparent
links between Lee Harvey Oswald and the Federal Bureau of
Investigation. In particular, I referred to the rumor that was
brought to the attention of the Warren Commission by Texas
officials that alleged that Oswald was on the FBI payroll -
perhaps as an informer - at the time of the assassination, in
Dallas, and that he had been allocated a number for his activities
- namely S-172 or S-179.
- 4 Mr Golz informed me that, contrary to my previous understanding,
the author of this rumor was Mr Hugh Aynesworth of the Dallas
Times Herald, and not Mr Alonzo Hudkins III, a former reporter
for the Houston Post. Golz stated that Hudkins had been
pestering Aynesworth for leads about links that may have existed
between the FBI and Lee Harvey Oswald, and that in desperation
Aynesworth had made up a story to rid himself of Hudkins'
attention. Golz encouraged me to telephone Aynesworth for
verification of these events.
- 5 I was anxious to make this call, since I was familiar with Mr
Aynesworth's considerable writings about the assassination over
the years. I felt sure that if the story was true, he would have
found a way to clear up the rumor long ago - especially since it
apparently caused confusion and embarrassment for the Warren
Commission. On November 26, 1975, at approximately 10.30 am, I
spoke with Mr Hugh Aynesworth by telephone at the Dallas Times
Herald. He confirmed what Golz had told me. Referring to
Hudkins, he said: "He was a competitor, and kept calling me all
the time". He added that in order to get Hudkins "off my back",
he had relayed some jottings off his notepad. These jottings
included the numbers S-172 and S-179, which apparently had no
relevance whatsoever to either Oswald or the FBI. It was this
information, Mr Aynesworth stated, that formed the basis of
Hudkins' articles in the Houston Post.
- 6 I asked Aynesworth why he had not made this information known
previously, since the rumor still persists today. Despite the
efforts of the Warren Commission to dispell it, the rumor is
still being quoted to suggest links between the FBI and Oswald.
Mr Aynesworth replied that he had been unaware of the seriousness
of the issue until he had seen some "declassified documents" from
the files of the Warren Commission. He asserted, however, that
Mr Mark Lane - a critic of the findings of the Warren Commission -
had been familiar with the true sequence of events for some years,
but continued to use the rumor anyway to suit his own ends.

SWORN at Melbourne in the
State of Victoria this 22nd
day of December 1975

Ian MacFarlane

Before me: *[Signature]*

"A Commissioner for taking declarations
and affidavits under the Evidence Act 1958"